

*Heaven Opened Its Gates
for
Inez Garner*



An Angel on Earth
September 22, 1922

An Angel in Heaven
April 1, 2009

Service Held

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Eleven O'clock in the Morning

Beacon Light
Seventh Day Adventist Church

607 South 19th Street
Richmond, California 94804

Officiating & Eulogist
Pastor Edwin F. Brown

Remembering Our Beloved

Inez Garner

"What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash"



Inez Garner, (affectionately known as Nez or Miss Inez) was born in Columbia, Mississippi on September 22, 1922 to the parents of Esco and Mattie Fontenberry. Her early years were spent in Columbia until the family moved to New Orleans, LA. Inez attended Dunbar Elementary School and Gilbert Academy. Inez was an athlete in her youth and excelled at softball, basketball and enjoyed friendly competition.

In 1943, Inez moved to Tacoma, Washington in search of work during World War II. She met the very handsome Maurice Garner who was serving in the United States Army. They were united in holy matrimony in 1945. Upon Maurice's discharge from the Army, they moved to Richmond, CA. Inez was a homemaker and was an excellent cook and seamstress. Many friends and family members had the opportunity to sit at her table!!! The house was always filled with children who knew that they had to "wash their hands" before sitting at her table.

Inez joined the Beacon Light Seventh Day Adventist Church in 1953 and enjoyed over 56 years of membership. She loved music and was a faithful "groupie" of the Gospel Dynamics!! She served on the Deaconess Board and was a former member of the Kings Daughters. Inez was also an active member of the Community Service Department. She attended church faithfully and "claimed" the same seat on a weekly basis!

Inez embraced everyone who crossed her path into her extended family. She truly enjoyed being surrounded by her children and their friends and family. She knew the true meaning of "Southern Hospitality" and welcomed many relatives who migrated from the South to California.

Inez recently became ill and her heart reached the end of its life on Wednesday, April 1, 2009. She was preceded in death by her parents, (Esco and Mattie Fontenberry); husband, (Maurice); son, (Maurice Jr.); two grandsons, (Michael and Marquis); one brother, (Ozell) and two sisters, (Flora and Birdie).

Inez leaves to cherish her precious memories, the joys of her life - her children: Janice (Edmon) Grant and Claudette Garner; Marciel (Vanessa) Garner; Gary (Nelvia) Garner; eleven grandchildren: Carla, Gary II, Maurice III (Brandi); Courtney, Isaiah, JaNene, Marcus, Danielle, Sylvester, Simone, and Eric (Adrienne) Grant; Great-Grandchildren: Brandon, Brandi, Jaela, Joelle, Isaiah, Nylah, Izreal, and Maurice IV; one brother, John Fontenberry; one sister, Marion Young; one sister-in-law, Thelma Garner; nieces: Clarita, Geraldine, Juana, Judy, and Patricia; nephews: James, Richard, Elton, Freddie, Anthony, Ronnell, Dyrus, Dwayne, John, and Keith; bonus sons, Johnnie Tucker and Clark Blackmore; bonus daughters, Jean Beal and Angela Sanders; special nieces, Doris and JoAnn Cooksey; her life-long friends: Louise Cooksey, Martha Nelson, Sadie Jackson, Jewel Peters, Mattie Whigham, and Willie Mae Dorton; her church family and a host of great-nieces, great-nephews and friends.

The Order of Service



Prelude Annette Hilts

The Processional Clergy & Family

The Scripture Readings:

The Old Testament- Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-30 Deacon Clark Blackmore

The New Testament-John 14:1-3 Minister Derek Jackson

Solo "I Won't Complain" Norman Pitters

Obituary Reading Barbara Williams

Resolutions & Cards Nelvia Garner

Reflections:

Cheryl Garner-Shaw Niece

LaJoyce Williams Family

Derek Jackson Family

Angela Sanders Family

Shakirah Williams-Dah "The Dash" Cousin

Solo "My Soul Is Anchored" Reverend Ronald Coleman

The Eulogy Pastor Edwin F. Brown

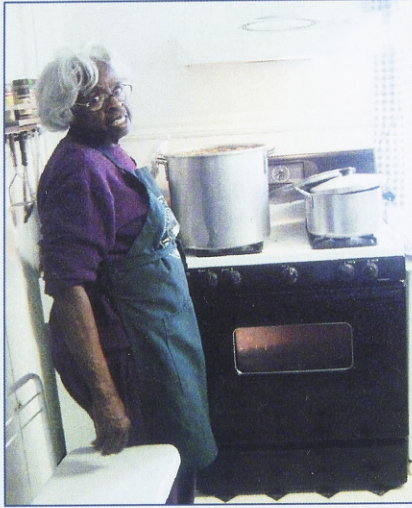
Praise Dance "STAND" Ashley Daniels & Janeesa Walker

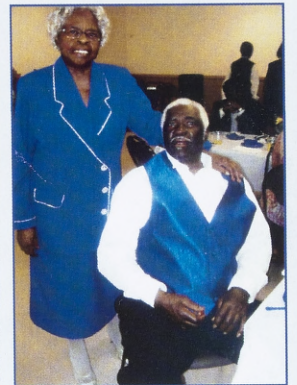
Closing Prayer Elder Willis Alcutt

Parting View Stewart's Rose Manor Staff, Directing

Recessional Musical Postlude

Interment & Repast to follow







The Dash

by Linda Ellis

*I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end.
He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke of the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.*

*For that dash represents all the time that she spent
alive on earth
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.*

*So think about this long and hard;
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
That can still be arranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.*

*And be less quick to anger and
show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.*

*So when your eulogy is being read
with your life's actions to rehash
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?*

~



Dear Mama,

In 1966 a baby girl named Carla was born. From my very first breath you were there, you loved me, nurtured me, inspired me, taught me, spanked me (when needed), you were more than just my grandma, you are my mother and best friend. Although our generations are far apart, our souls were bonded together. From this point on, I will carry you in my heart as always. You are appreciated, the strength that you had will help me to go on with my life. I already miss you more than I can express. Thank you for your unconditional love.

Until we meet again, loving you always and forever. Thank you.

Carla



Dear Granma,

I miss you so very much; words can't express how hurt I am without you. Thank you for always being there for me. You always knew what to say even if we didn't want to hear it and you were always honest with us. I will miss the gumbo, biscuits, humming bird cake and many more of your specialties. Thank you for also assisting in my upbringing. I can't wait to see you again!

Missing and loving you dearly,

Courtney



Dear Granma,

Words can't even begin to explain the way I feel right now. Your leaving here comes as a shock not only to me and our family but our friends and loved ones as well. Although I know one day we must leave this place, I pray I enjoy the journey just as long as you have. It's hard knowing that when I come thru that front door you won't be there to greet me with a hug and kiss on the cheek; or sitting in the kitchen watching a NBA basketball game asking if I'm hungry for something to eat. "You better go in there and wash you hands before you come in my kitchen" is what you would tell me or anybody no matter their gender or age. Not only were you grandma to ten beautiful and five beautiful grand and great grandchildren but all of our friends who knew you as well. You became everyones' Granma. You created a beautiful family and I am proud and honored to share a part in it. I appreciate and love you. ISIAAH



Hey Granma,

Well, this is my last goodbye. I keep telling people this whole thing isn't real. I mean...your Granma, Ms. Inez? You've been there every single time I come by the house, watching the game, cooking, laughing, fussin, whatever. When I come to the house now, even if 20 or 30 people are there, it is still empty. I don't want to be selfish but I just wish we all had a little bit more time with you. More than anything I want to thank you; thank you for your love, support, stories, jokes, your son Marty, my aunties/uncles/cousins, and your BISCUITS! You are and will continue to be missed by all. I love you. JaNene



Dear Granma,

I know that you are in a better place now, but it hurts me to know that you are no longer here with me. I know that is may sound a little selfish, but that is just how I feel. In the same breath, I'm glad that you don't have to worry or go through any more heart aching pain because it hurt me to see you that way. Grandma, I am at a loss for words but just know I love and miss you so much ...

Love, Danielle

I love U always Granma, nobody can take your place in my heart.
Brandi (Moo Moo)

Active Pallbearers

John K. Fontenberry

Derek Jackson

Keith Fontenberry

Johnnie Tucker

Michael Griggs

Michael Watkins

Honorary Pallbearers

Gary D. Garner II

Marcus Garner

Edmon Grant

Maurice Garner III

Brandon Robinson

Eric Grant

Isaiah D. Garner

Isaiah M. Garner

Etzel Williams

Derek Garner

Roy Garner

Clark Blackmore

William Garner

Ronnell Junius

James Fontenberry

Interment



Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
El Sobrante, California 94803



Acknowledgements

The Family of Inez Garner would like to sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and the outpouring of love and support demonstrated at such a difficult time as this.

Special Thanks

Pastor Edwin F. Brown and the members of Beacon Light Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Repast

Beacon Light Seventh Day Adventist Church
607 South 19th Street
Richmond, CA 94804

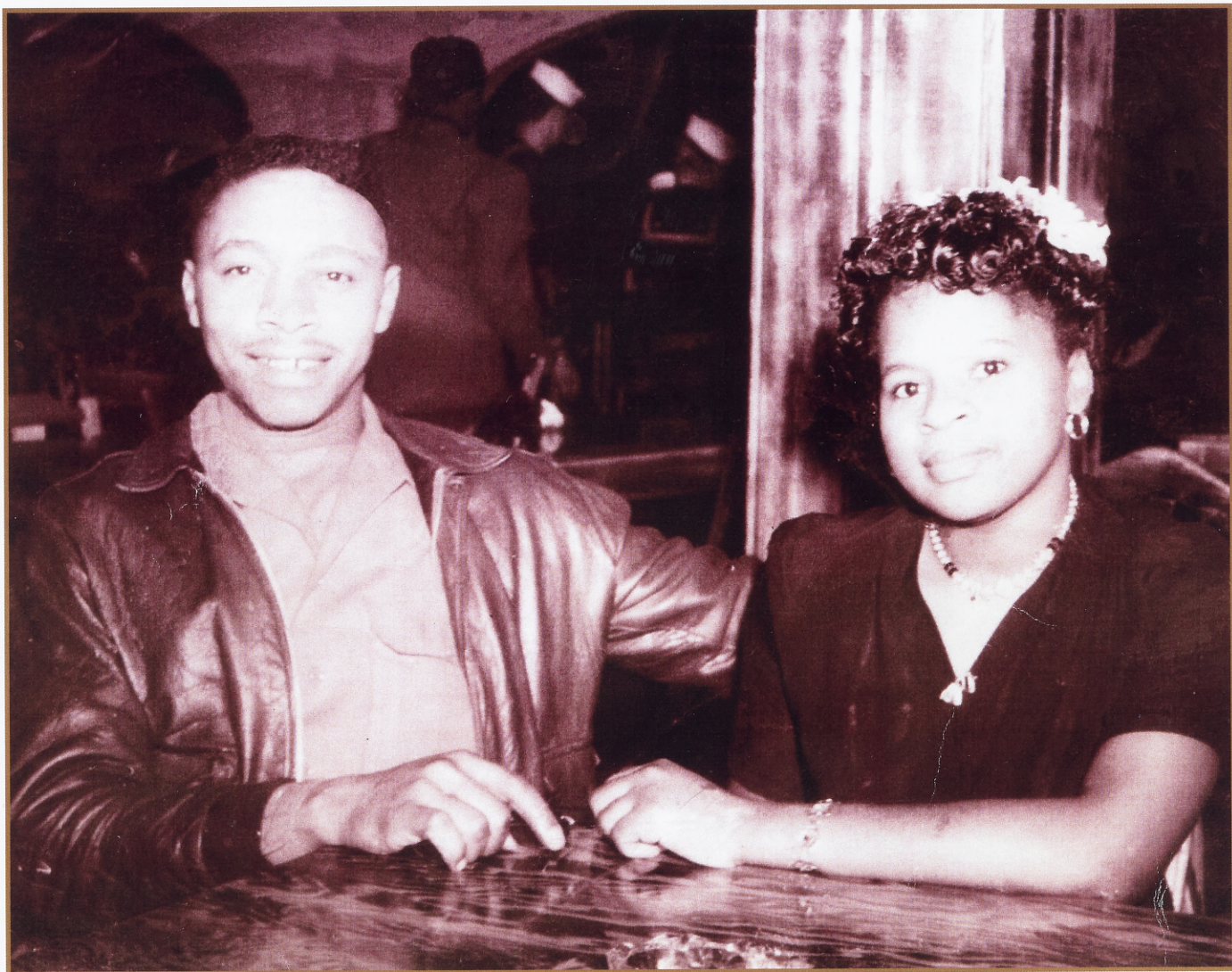
Final arrangements were entrusted to the professional care of:

Stewart's

Rose Manor Funeral Service

3331 Macdonald Ave.

Richmond, CA 94805



Together Forever

I Only Wanted You

*They say memories are golden
Well, maybe that is true.*

I never wanted memories, I only wanted you.

*A million times I needed you, a million times I cried.
If love alone could have saved you
you never would have died.*

*In life, I loved you dearly,
In death, I loved you still.
In my heart, you held a place
no one could ever fill.
And now, we're together forever!*



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